

# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 8, 2000

### What's Inside



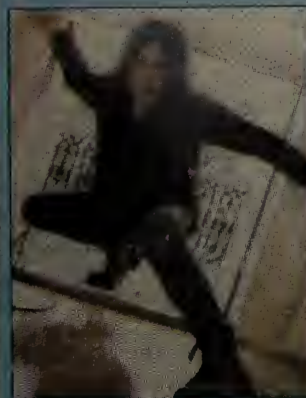
Peer tutor makes a difference for students.

PAGE 4



Condoms are an expense for the CSI.

PAGE 5



Nine Inch Nails rocks Maple Leaf Gardens.

PAGE 6

### COMMENTARY

Page 2

Hockey playoff fever

## Colleges to grant applied degrees

By Sherri Osment

The opportunity for Ontario colleges to grant applied degrees has become a reality.

"For people at Conestoga College this is exciting," said Conestoga president John Tibbits. "Just watch us now."

Tibbits said that applied degree programs at Conestoga could begin as soon as the fall of 2001.

Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, made the announcement April 28 that the government of Ontario will allow colleges of

applied arts and technology to offer applied degrees.

The degrees are going to be offered on a pilot project basis with a maximum of eight projects per year for three years.

Tibbits was in Toronto as an invited guest when Cunningham made the announcement. A press conference was held later in the day at Conestoga College. Reporters from the local media attended the conference, along with members of the local business community.

Tibbits said that the offering of applied degrees is a tremendous

opportunity for the college.

Conestoga will be submitting proposals for applied degree programs at the college by the fall.

One of the programs that may be proposed is the mechanical engineering program. Tibbits said that it is absolutely essential that the proposals for applied degree programs be world class ones.

"There is no way a slipshod proposal will be approved," Tibbits said.

Tibbits thanked the local MPPs, businesses and Cunningham for the support shown in seeking the applied degrees pilot project.

"It's a courageous decision," Tibbits said. "It took some guts."

"It's an idea whose time has come if we're going to remain globally competitive," Wayne Wettlauffer, Kitchener Centre MPP, said. He added that Conestoga is going to be one of the schools that will be successful in applied degrees.

In a press release announcing the change, Cunningham said: "By increasing the range of options in Ontario, we are promoting excellence from our degree-granting institutions and making Ontario's education system the envy of the world."

## Free phone demands attention, not quarters

By Laura Czekaj

A free phone installed April 26 in the Sanctuary comes with a price -- the phone displays nine, eight-by-10-inch ads.

The phone, only capable of making local calls and not able to receive calls, was installed by Freefone Niagara Telephone Systems and Conestoga Students Inc. (formerly called the Doon Student Association) and is located outside the CSI office. Advertising spots are currently filled with Freefone's ads, promoting the benefits of advertising on the phone.

The ads boast that advertisers will have access to a "captive audience," the ad will be seen one-to-three minutes compared to other ad placements which are seen for only seconds and the ads have "potential exclusivity" in the college where very few ads are present.

Brian Douggan, co-owner of Freefone, said selling ads is the only form of revenue Freefone has and advertisers specifically target students. Companies like General Motors have been expressing interest, he said.

Advertisers pay \$2,000 per ad, which Douggan called a good deal compared to billboard or newspaper prices. Douggan said a billboard in Ontario costs about \$1,000 a month, while an ad with Freefone is \$2,000 a year.

Douggan said Freefone is currently installing phones in Mohawk College in Hamilton and Sheridan College in Oakville and is also talking to Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

Freefone deals with the Candian Organization of Campus Activities, an umbrella organization that deals nationally with student associations, and through them Freefone gains access to individual student

associations, like the CSI. Freefone covers all costs of the phone, including the Bell Canada line. Colleges and universities are the only organizations Freefone is currently approaching because high schools and businesses are a different market, said Douggan.

Jeff Kropf, a first-year general machinist student in an apprenticeship program who was eating his lunch at a table in the Sanctuary near the phone, said students are being used by Freefone as a commodity to sell to advertisers.

Jeff O-Rafferty, a first-year tool and die student who was examining the phone's ads, disagreed. He called the phone an excellent idea and suggested it should be more colourful to stand out from other advertising such as CSI flyers and a nearby Coke machine.

CSI president Phil Lebeau said the phone is just one more service the CSI can provide for students. He said the CSI contacted Freefone to have the phone installed.

In addition to the phone, a \$1,000 scholarship is provided by Freefone from advertising money. A total of \$3,000 is donated by Freefone, 16 per cent of the initial revenue--\$1,000 towards the scholarship, \$1,000 to COCA and \$1,000 to the CSI. All scholarship money will be distributed by COCA rather than the CSI, an arrangement Lebeau said annoyed him, because the CSI provides the location and therefore should be able to present the scholarship.

He said the \$1,000 the CSI will receive will be categorized as revenue, but is looking into putting \$500 toward a scholarship.

Lebeau said the CSI won't start advertising the phone's existence until September, when full-time students return from summer vacation.

### Double-fisting



Conestoga College students party at Loose Change Louie's in Waterloo. The student association hosted the event, which was held April 26. About 100 students were in attendance at the event. For story see page 7. (Photo by Mike Radatus)

## Maintenance worker dies

By Donna Ryves

Jack Baker, a maintenance worker in the college's physical resources department for 17 years, died suddenly on April 26 in Cambridge at the age of 52.



Baker

To accommodate the number of people who were expected at the funeral service, it was held in the Blue Room of the college's Doon campus cafeteria April 30.

About 300 people were present. The cremation that followed the service was held at Parkview Crematorium in Waterloo.

"We as a community can support each other in our grief and celebrate life," said Rev. Roy Holton, who officiated at the service.

Baker was a member of Toastmasters, which is an international organization that teaches communication skills through public speaking and other exercises.

"He liked to lecture people," said Glynn Cassell, Baker's brother.

He also supported members from Alcoholics Anonymous.

Cassell said his brother loved the outdoors and enjoyed canoeing, biking and photography.

Carol Pease, a friend who spoke at the service and a support services officer in the student recruitment and admissions office at the college, said when a message was left on the answering machine it ended with "could you please send Jack."

Friends were received at Little's Funeral Home in Cambridge on April 29.

Baker was the son of Ernest Cormier and the late Dorothy Cassell. He is also survived by siblings Malcolm Baker, Shirley Knowles, Gary Cassell, Ida Tourout, Iris Cassell, Golda Cassell, Susan White, Glenda Earle, Glynn Cassell, Donna Solenka, Christopher Cassell, Gina Knap, Abbey Downey, Wayne Cormier, Raphael Cormier, Toby Cormier, Fabian Cormier, Della Benoit, Leo Cormier, Lorraine Barrett and their families.

## Shorter semesters should make summer jobs more accessible

Conestoga College is one of the few community colleges that still has 16-week semesters. This may be changing.

The academic research and educational services is considering shortening the semesters to 15 weeks as well as other models for change.

The college should look seriously into shortening the semesters to help students get an edge by allowing Conestoga students to be more competitive and attractive to employers when applying for summer jobs. In this competitive job market Conestoga students are being left behind when it comes to finding summer employment.

Fanshawe College in London has 15-week semesters, while semesters at Seneca and Humber Colleges in Toronto are 14 weeks in length.

Keeping the semesters at Conestoga one or two weeks longer than nearby schools is definitely a detriment to students when it comes to summer employment.

### In a competitive job market Conestoga students are being left behind when it comes to summer employment

Some concerns about shorter semesters include heavier workloads and lower quality of education.

However, colleges where shorter semesters are already in effect do not seem to be negatively affected by the change.

If shorter semesters are implemented there will need to be changes in curriculum which will take at least a year, so this will not be an overnight implementation.

"If we're going to change, it's down the road, not overnight," said Eleanor Conlin, chair of academic research and educational services, in an April 24 Spoke article.

Shorter semesters also have advantages that go beyond getting summer jobs.

Shorter semesters will give teachers extra time during the fall semester to do grading and hold discussions on whether or not a student is promoted to the next level of his or her program. This will give students a chance to appeal their marks by the beginning of the next semester. With 16-week semesters, students in fall semesters do not have the option of an appeal before the winter semester begins.

Shortening semesters will also give teachers more time when they are finishing up their marking at the end of the semesters. The 16-week fall semester means that some teachers are up until late Christmas Eve working on final marks, said Conlin, in the April 24 Spoke article.

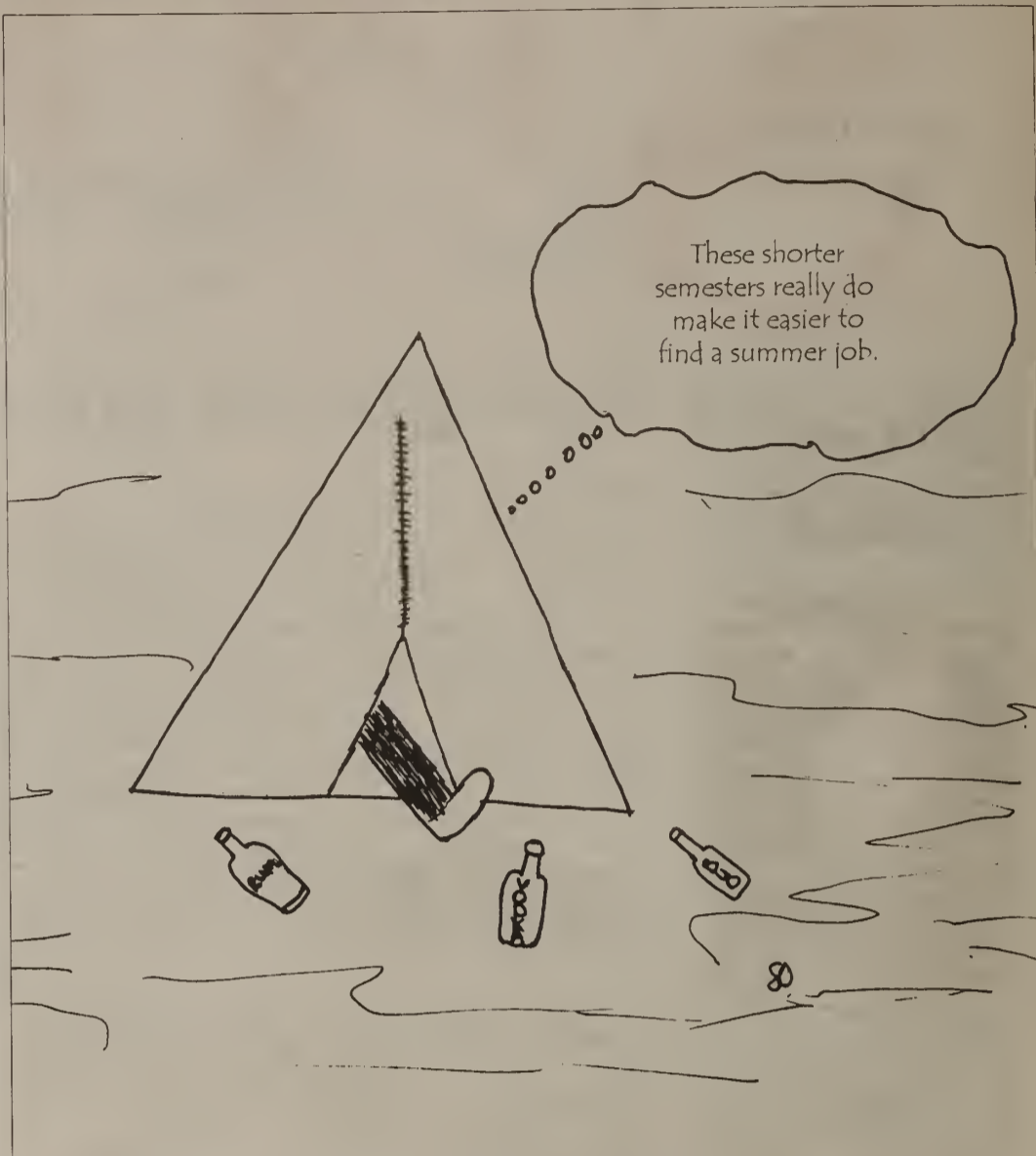
Another benefit of shorter semesters is giving students from out of town more time to spend with their families during the Christmas holidays and summer vacation.

Before any changes are made, the academic research and educational services is also speaking to different groups within the college, such as Conestoga Students Inc. (formerly the DSA), students, faculty and advisory committees to get their opinions on the change.

Conlin will approach faculty and middle management with the idea in May and June.

The world is moving at a faster pace, and remaining competitive by making this change can only be a positive decision for all concerned.

**Colleges such as Fanshawe, Seneca and Humber already have shorter semesters**



## Leafs win despite injuries

The race for Lord Stanley's grail is on.

Put away the razors, shut up about injury status and play through the pain. That's the game plan most coaches instill in their NHL players.

Every little detail is magnified in the playoffs. The Leafs may be facing the highest hopes of any team still in the race. Having made it to the final four last year — exceeding everyone's expectations — the Leafs will need to do it again. Anything less is a failure.

Not that I'm breaking out the excuses already, but the Leafs have had to face numerous obstacles in their quest for the mightiest mug in pro sports.

After losing key players such as Bryan Berard to a nasty eye injury, rookie sensation Nik Antropov to a knee injury and leading NHL faceoff man Yanic Perrault to torn ligaments in his leg, the Leafs prospects seem dimmer.

However, when all else fails, we



Ray Bowe

Leaf fans are constantly reminded that we have the best goaltender in the league in Curtis Joseph. The Leafs could ice their farm team and still have a .500 record.

Joseph is easily the most valuable player in the league today. While Jaromir Jagr lights the lamp substantially, Joseph can single-handedly win a game with his stellar acrobatics in the crease.

Everyone seems to forget how good Joseph really is, largely due to his highly offensive mates. People figure that the Leafs just blow teams away with lots of goals. Given that that is the case, Toronto's defence corps leaves Joseph virtually unprotected. But that has to change in the playoffs.

As I write this column, the mighty Leafs have split the first two games in Toronto and lost game three terribly, 5-1, back in East Rutherford, N.J., Monday night. They have to snag game four to square the series at two apiece.

The Devils are arguably the deepest team in the league. Between the pipes they've got perennial all-star goalie Martin Brodeur. The Devil defence consists of Kitchener native

Scott Stevens, a stalwart boulder on the blue line, the offensive-minded Scott Niedermayer and Vladimir Malakhov, a throwback to the old rover days of the NHL.

Up front the Devils display their depth most prevalently. Scott Gomez, a speedy Alaskan right-winger — and the first player of Hispanic descent in the NHL — is a shoo-in for rookie of the year. After all, he was the team's second leading scorer this year.

John Madden, another rookie, has been called the best penalty-killing forward in the league this year, combining speed, smarts and a tenacious disposition. And those are just the rookies.

Although the Devils may not possess a marquee player, with the likes of Patrick Elias, Alex Mogilny and Petr Sykora there is more than enough firepower coming at the Leafs in round two of the playoffs.

My prediction is Leafs in six games, with the sixth being a real barn burner. Hopefully I can maintain my integrity, because according to my calculations, this issue will be hitting the boxes the night of that very game. Enjoy.

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by a payment from Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI), formally called the Doon Student Association, in exchange for the insertion of advertising in the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the CSI. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the CSI unless their advertisements contain the CSI logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

## Next hurdle: Mastercraft competition

By Sherri Osment

Bob Savoie, a second-year woodworking technician student, won the winter-semester level Mastercraft award during a competition held on April 27.

Savoie's set of Queen Anne end tables made of solid cherry won out over the other 10 entries that ranged from coffee tables and dressers to hutches.

Woodworking instructor Fred Mott said projects are judged by overall look and workmanship.

Savoie's work will now be judged against the 1999 fall technician winner. The winner of that competition will receive a Bosch portable power tool donated by Bosch Canada and Tool Town Machinery. The winner will go on to represent the woodworking technician program in the Mastercraft Award competition which will be held in the foyer of the wood-working building.

The Mastercraft Award competition has entries from all technology programs at Conestoga College. The winner receives \$500 and his or her name on a large plaque that is on permanent display in the upper foyer of the recreation centre.

Kristie Pacey, a second-year woodworking technology student, also won the winter-semester level Mastercraft award during the competition for the technology area of the program.

# College supports No-Diet Day

By Donna Ryves

In support of International No-Diet Day, Conestoga College promoted healthy living by providing current information on issues such as eating disorders and body image, according to Lynn Robbins, a counsellor at the college in the student services office and a member of the Waterloo Region Eating Disorders Coalition.

The coalition organized a program April 26 at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital to observe the day.

No-Diet Day is a day to drop misconceptions and identify eating problems in society.

Robbins said that college students face many pressures which contribute to preoccupations with the way they look.

She also added that the media sometimes reflects unrealistically

on the way people look.

"There are serious issues at the college level because of media coverage," Robbins said.

She added that it's important to work with experts such as doctors and dietitians because they know safe ways to approach issues like losing weight.

"We work well with the doctor and nurse at the college," Robbins said.

Generally, people are preoccupied with the way they look while there are other problems that need addressing, Robbins said.

"We have to feel good about who we are," she said.

"Instead of losing weight, we are losing perspective," Robbins said.

Resource material available for students at the college includes books, pamphlets and videos dealing with body image concerns and other issues.

The college is listed as a

resource for students in pamphlets published by community health organizations such as Grand River Hospital and the Kitchener-

Waterloo Health Centre.

The college also supports Eating Disorders Awareness Week that is held in the first week of February.

## ORIENTATION ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

### ASSISTANTS WILL:

- Participate in a brief training and orientation session (scheduled the week prior to orientation week)
- Help with the successful orientation and registration of incoming students to Conestoga College during orientation week
- Assist in preparing orientation and registration materials

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- Helping at various registration tables
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## Peer host loves the experience

By Laura Czekaj

People who know Anna Somogyi describe her as outgoing, energetic and friendly.

"I found her eager to meet new people," says Melissa Turner, a peer services administrator at Conestoga College. "What strikes me is how outgoing she is."

Somogyi is one of the eight peer hosts who were honoured at the April 6 peer services reception, where peer tutors and hosts were given plaques, certificates and letters of recommendation from faculty, deans and program co-ordinators.

Somogyi signed up as a host last April and started her duties in September. She said the motivation behind her decision to volunteer was that she thought it would be fun.

"I just love the experience of learning new things," she said. "It is nice being a host because I have students from China, Korea and Vietnam and I got to learn about their cultures."

Students who require the services of a host are international students who need orientation to the college and the area.

When Somogyi began hosting in September, she was paired with four

international students rather than the usual one. Shawna Bernard, a learning skills advisor with student services, said there were 22 students in need of a host and only eight hosts available this year.

Becoming acquainted with her students was easy for Somogyi because the students had a firm grasp on the English language.

"Their English was pretty good," she said. "I had no trouble understanding them. What we would mostly talk about was their life and how it was in their homeland."

She has become friends with one of her students and she said that she remains in contact with her other students.

"I say hi to them whenever I see them in the hallways and if they want to talk, they can call me," she said.

She added that the majority of students who request a host usually find friends once they have become comfortable with the people in their programs. Somogyi said students don't usually need the services of a host after a month.

"They just need me to settle down," Somogyi said. "But there are some students that I have continued

with all the way from September. After a month, some said they really don't need me."

A host is expected to contact their students a minimum of once a week, either by phone, e-mail or personally.

Somogyi said she usually sets up an initial meeting with the student in the Learning Resource Centre. She then asks them questions like what program they are in and if they like it at Conestoga.

"I find that if I don't initiate the conversation then it won't happen," she said. "They are usually very shy. I guess they feel out of place."

Somogyi said her purpose as a host is to make her students feel comfortable coming into Canada and the college.

Somogyi's students seem to appreciate her efforts because at the reception Turner read a letter addressed to Somogyi from one of her students that said Somogyi's help made a "world of difference to her" and that she considered Somogyi a friend.

Turner attributes Somogyi's success to her ability to be open and interested in her students.

"She has a real interest in other cultures," she said.

## Peer tutor receives high praise from special needs students

By Laura Czekaj

Wendy Brydges still has the colour-coded brain Rosanne Bauman gave her.

The brain is one of the many teaching props Bauman uses when she tutors students as part of her job as a peer tutor with Conestoga College's student services.

Bauman's efforts are greatly appreciated, said Brydges, who is one of the four students Bauman tutors.

Brydges, who is on the board of directors of the Kitchener-Waterloo Epilepsy Foundation, is a health care operations student at Conestoga College. She has had epilepsy for 20 years and had extensive brain surgery in 1991 that left her struggling to cope with her speech.

She said Bauman has a way with people who have disabilities.

"I am not ever going to let her go," said Brydges. "It can be embarrassing not knowing the words, but she was still able to know what I was talking about."

Brydges said her tutor gave her confidence and helped her understand assignments. She said at one point she was failing in school and she considered quitting, but Bauman assisted her in her studies and now her grades have improved.

Bauman, a second-year nursing student, said it is nice to know students can receive help through tutors and the reason she does it is because she loves it.

"It is a thrill to help somebody discover," she said.

Prior to attending Conestoga, Bauman taught elementary school in Elmira for nine years. She said she has had experience teaching students with disabilities, but Brydges is her first special needs student while tutoring at the college.

Bauman said she teaches people with disabilities by letting them show her the best method of helping them learn.

"I get a sense of where their struggle is," she said. "Then I try things."

Brydges finds she learns best when she can visualize the lesson, and Bauman has used this tool to help her learn.

Peer tutors spend one hour a week with their students and must have 80 per cent or over in the course they are tutoring. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also requested by student services before accepting an individual as a tutor.

With her previous training as a teacher, Bauman was a shoo-in for a position as a tutor which pays \$9.50 an hour.

Bauman has been tutoring Brydges for a year and Brydges says she is determined not to let her go.

"She was able to come to my level," Brydges said. "With teaching tools, she made things a lot easier."

Brydges said Bauman is a good nurse and an even better teacher because Bauman was always there when she needed her.

"She is the best," said Brydges. "I don't want anyone else. I just want her."

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CSI members Kim Kroeker (left) and Alycia Punnet display the free condoms in the CSI office. (Photo by Mike Radatus)

## Safer sex costly

CSI looking at ways to ensure free condoms are not wasted

By Mike Radatus

Conestoga College students are helping keep Lifestyles, a condom company, in business.

The CSI (formerly the Doon Students Association) paid \$910 for 5,500 condoms, 16.5 cents a condom, this year. The organization is searching for a plan to ensure the condoms are being used.

During an executive meeting April 17, the CSI discussed ways to keep condoms away from people who don't intend to use them.

One suggestion was to charge students 10 cents apiece.

Alycia Punnet, CSI promotions assistant, said the CSI encourages students to use the condoms, but has noticed some students taking advantage of the fact that they are free.

"When you see someone come in and grab one you feel good about what you are doing," said Punnet. "Then you see others coming in

and grabbing handfuls and you're not sure if the condoms are getting used."

Another problem with the free condoms is students using them as props for presentations.

"We'd rather have people come in the office to get them if they need them," Punnet said.

Kim Kroeker, vice-president of student affairs, is currently talking to Lifestyles to see if there is anything that can be done.

Kroeker said one suggestion is to use a dispenser so students would have to insert a dime to get one.

Punnet said another idea was to put the condoms behind the counter in the CSI office, but it was decided students may feel uncomfortable asking for them.

"There are a lot of students who are using the condoms. There are students in every day," Punnet said. "We don't want to embarrass students that are using the condoms."

Poll finds:

## Students divided on semester issue

By Sherri Osment

Students polled in a random survey at Conestoga College on April 20 were divided on whether or not semesters should be shortened to 15 weeks from 16 weeks.



Phillips

Charmaine Phillips, a first-year LASA student, said that students' marks could be negatively affected by shorter semesters.

"In shortening the semesters, students won't get as much information," said Phillips.

Liana Peart, a first-year broadcasting - radio and television student, said the workload in her program varies from week to week and a shorter semester might even it out.

"I think it's a good idea as long as you get all the work that you need

to be taught," said Peart.

Daniel Boronka, a first-year mechanical engineering student, said the extra week is needed to finish assignments.



Boronka

"If they shorten semesters they'd have to shorten the workload, otherwise it'll be too condensed," said Boronka.

Rebekah Wergeland, a second-year social services student, said shortened semesters would be beneficial.

"We all need a little time to reflect, a little time to rest and a little time to rejuvenate our souls," said Wergeland.

Glen Dow, a first-year LASA student, said shortened semesters would mean more work.

"It'll make it harder to balance school work and extra-curricular

activities if I have more work in a shorter period of time."

Dong Dam, a second-year aviation student, said a shorter semester will make it easier for students to find summer jobs.

"Other colleges are done earlier, so places are hiring earlier," said Dam. "Finding a summer job is my main concern."



Leslie Dam Hanson, a first-year early childhood education student, said she doesn't like the idea of shortened semesters.

"There's a lot of work to cram into semesters as they are now, so to shorten them would be very stressful and it's stressful enough," said Hanson.

Sarah Doolittle, a second-year marketing student, said a shortened semester would allow students to work longer in the summer.

"It'll give students from out of town more time to spend with family," said Doolittle.

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## NIN rips into Gardens

By Mike Radatus

The highly anticipated performance of front man Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails came April 28 at Maple Leaf Gardens.

It was the first time in almost three years NIN has come to Toronto and by the sound of the crowd the wait was worth it.

The band is on tour for their latest album, *The Fragile*, their first release since *The Downward Spiral*.

Reznor was up to his world-famous antics of smashing his guitar and instruments, as well as colliding with other members of the band.

During the second song of the set Reznor jumped into the crowd with a cordless microphone and sang in the mosh pit.

When he came out he was without his mike and you could hear the song being sung by girls in the crowd.

Reznor gave the mike to the girls and ran around the stage as they sang the chorus before he got a new mike and cut off sound from his lost mike.

He never saw that mike again.

The band, which is well-known for making industrial music mainstream, was appreciative of the Canadian crowd and thanked them after each song.

Members of the audience sang along with Reznor every chance they had and made his voice seem larger than life.

The opening band, A Perfect Circle, was almost as anticipated as NIN.

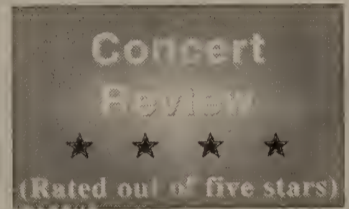
The band has Tool's lead singer, Maynard James Keenan,

playing with them as a side project. Tool is a California based band

A Perfect Circle has essentially the same elements of Tool's song structures, including the dark, hypnotic, trance-like feeling that the band leaves the listeners with.

Normally, fans who have seats in the stands rush security to get to the floor in an attempt to get closer to the band. This typically happens when the lights go out after the opening group, but that was not the case at this concert.

After a few songs by A Perfect Circle, fans rushed towards the floor and made it past security.



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A night of dancing for those without exams at Loose Change Louie's

**By Mike Radatus**

Students who weren't cramming for exams April 26 went to Loose Change Louie's for a night of dancing.

The DSA, which changed its name to Conestoga Students Inc. May 1, threw its annual year-end bash and supplied students with a bus from residence to the bar for \$2.

There were under 100 students in attendance, but the students who managed to get away from the books had a good time, despite the event being scheduled during exams.

Students were quick to show their pride in Conestoga College when the DJ asked them to raise their hands if they were students of the college.

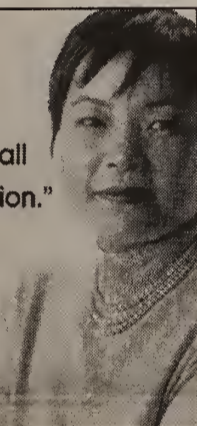
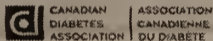
It seemed that the majority of people in the bar were Conestoga students, as they cheered and raised their fists in the air.

The event was the last of the semester and the last of the year held by the student association.

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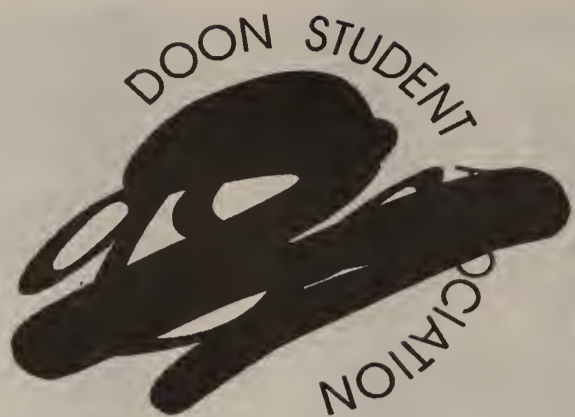


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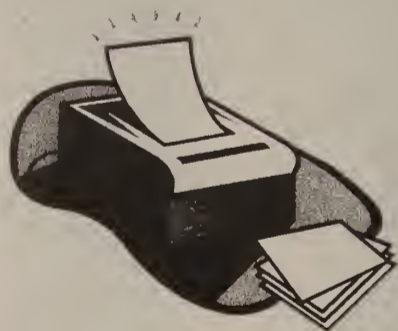
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